

Henry Middle School – Color Guard Program – Information Packet

Hello Prospective Color Guard Member and Family!

One of the most exciting parts of middle school is having the opportunity to try out new activities and be a part of a school team. We are excited to welcome you to the 2024-2025 edition of the Henry Middle School Color Guard!

Color Guard is a unique activity that blends all the best elements of athletics, dance, theater, music, and art! Members of the HMS Color Guard develop into confident, responsible, and mature young adults as they learn fundamental color guard skills, engage in captivating performances, and make friendships that will last a lifetime!

As a member of the Henry Middle School Color Guard, students will begin their color guard journey by learning the fundamentals of color guard in a positive team atmosphere. Throughout the school year we will create multiple performance productions for the school and community, with a strong focus on continuous personal and team growth. Membership in the HMS color guard co-curricular elective program is open to all HMS students in 7th & 8th grade.

This packet includes everything you need to know about the HMS colorguard program:

- Policies & Procedures
- Director Information
- School Year Overview
- Fall/Spring Breakdown
- Attendance
- After-School Rehearsal Details
- Grading System
- Rehearsal Attire
- Fees Schedule
- Volunteer opportunities
- Fundraisers
- Forms/Registration Information

Policies and Procedures:

- Be prepared to fully participate in class, bring a change of clothes when needed.
- Wear athletic attire for all after-school rehearsals.
- No phones in class. This includes headphones!
- No leaving the classroom without permission.
- No eating or chewing gum during class/ rehearsals.
- Students are expected to listen to instructions from Directors, Staff, & Leadership.
- Students are expected to follow [10 Ethical principles](#) presented by LISD as well as code of conduct presented by LISD and VRHS band Program.
- Students are expected to always participate in what the class is learning.
- Students are expected to come to class prepared and with a good attitude.
- Students are expected to arrive at rehearsals at least 15 min before start time.
- Students or parents are expected to communicate absences to me a minimum of 24 hrs in advance for approved absences outlined by LISD.

Director Information:

Erin Kosman Cell: 609-457-5814

Email: Erin.kosman@leanderisd.org

Teaching Staff Information:

Ms. Fridel, Mr. Milligan, and TBD

School -Year Overview: The majority of what we do will center around the color guard class at HMS. Class period rehearsals will consist of learning important flag, dance, and rifle skills along with performance routines.

Fall Semester: The HMS Color Guard will prepare for and perform at three events in the fall months. Those events are the **LISD Festival of Bands on September 30th**, **MS Band Night at Gupton on Oct. 24, 2023**, and the **Star Steppers Holiday Showcase Performance** the first Saturday in December. We will have a **dress rehearsal for the performances on the Wednesday prior to each event.**

Spring Semester: On selected Saturdays starting in late January and ending in mid March, the HMS Color Guard will **compete** in what is called WINTER GUARD. Winter guard performances are productions that are created with colorful costumes and flags to a custom designed soundtrack. Performances are held in gymnasiums on specially designed floor tarps. The HMS color guard will compete at 4-5 winter guard competitions. **The TCGC (Texas Color Guard Circuit) contest schedule is released in October. I will be able to finalize and release our competition schedule in early November.** The final month of the school year will consist of students fostering their creativity and applying what they learned all year. Students will create their own production including flag, floor tarp, and costume designs along with their own choreography. Projects are performed in class.

Participation in multiple activities? Many students are wondering if they can participate in color guard along with additional activities. My answer is YES! If your student wants to and is able to handle more than one activity, then they are welcome to be in color guard. This requires families to submit schedules of additional activities to me at the start of the season/semester. Conflicts may impact color guard performance opportunities and necessitate a makeup assignment(s), so the more communication the better! Please email erin.kosman@leanderisd.org with specific questions about this.

After-School Rehearsal Schedule: The color guard's primary rehearsal time throughout the year is during our class period. In the fall semester we will hold **one after-school practice per event on the Wednesday prior to our performances.** During winter guard season, **starting on January 8th** we will rehearse after-school at **VRHS on Wednesdays from 4:45 - 6:45 PM.** On these days, a staff member will meet the color guard students at HMS immediately after the last bell and the team will walk to VRHS together.

Attendance and Participation: All students are expected to attend and participate in **ALL classes, rehearsals, and performances.** This is a co-curricular activity and grades are not only based on participation in class but also rehearsals and performances after school and on weekends. Attendance of rehearsals, performances, and competitions are required. Grades will reflect attendance. If students have a conflict with a required event (Class, Rehearsal, or Performance/ Contest) parents should email me with details about that absence. If the absence does not fall under Excused then the absence will count against their grade. Excused or Unexcused Absences are evaluated on a student by student basis.

Grading System: Students will be given participation grades per each week for each 6-weeks. The majority of a student's grade comes from participation. One participation grade will be given every week. We operate on a demerit system for participation grades. When a student forgets a item needed for class, has a behavior issue, does not have the right attire, or chooses not to participate, their grade will be subject to deductions of 10 points for each demerit on that week's grade. Pass offs are like quizzes, assigned when needed by the directors for individual

skills or phrases. Performances are attendance based for all after school requirements such as contests, rehearsals, and pep rallies.

Participation= 50% Choreography and Skills Pass-offs/Written Assignments = 20% Performances= 30%

Demerits: Not following CG procedures and protocols could result in a demerit to participation grades. See below for possible demerits a student could receive.

Tier 1- 10 points off weekly grade

- Wearing non athletic attire
- Non participation with the guard at any time
- Misuse of CG equipment
- Not having all materials needed for the day (Class or contest)

Tier 2- 20 points off weekly grade

- Not having equipment
- Inappropriate behaviors (To staff or other members)
- Uncommunicated absences or tardies (Class, Rehearsal, and contests)

UIL No Pass/No Play: The HMS Color Guard Program must follow the UIL No Pass/No Play Policy. This means that all students must be passing all classes with a 70% or higher at the end of the grading cycles. The color guard staff have no control over when those grading cycles end and how they potentially impact performances. All team members are expected to do their part to stay eligible. Directors reserve the right to evaluate a student's continuation with the program if eligibility is a recurring issue. Being ineligible will **NOT** result in a refund of fees.

Rehearsal Attire: Students need to wear clothing that is **athletic in nature**/ clothing that allows them to participate fully in rehearsals and class. Clothing should be athletic shorts/ leggings (**no jeans or mock-denim materials/non-stretch material, no skirts, or other non athletic intended clothing**), t-shirt with sleeves (**form fitting/ won't fall off/ get caught in equipment/ or ride up while moving**), athletic shoes (**no sandals, flip flops, or cros**). Students can bring clothing to change into at the beginning/ end of class if they wish.

Jewelry-Students are **NOT** allowed to wear rings, bracelets, dangling necklaces, or large earrings while rehearsing. Only stud earrings are allowed. This is for the safety of each student.

Fees: As with any activity of this nature there is a cost associated. We pride ourselves on providing a great experience for your students while keeping the costs at a minimum. We offer a yearlong activity for your child to participate in. We travel/compete/perform multiple times throughout the year. The accessories fee covers needed items and the fair share fee covers things like contest entrance fees, transportation (buses), flags, props, equipment, teaching staff, uniforms, etc.

Payment Schedule: In order to help our activity be affordable to all families, we will accept payments in installments. You may choose to make the full payment at the first installment due date if desired.

- Accessories Fee - Due at Registration in May
 - Total = \$122 (Accessories will include the following)
 - Guard Gloves \$17.00, Adult Bodytight \$28.00, MS Rehearsal Shirt \$12.00, Leggings \$20.00 and Jazz Sneakers \$45.00

- **Returning members do not need to re-order items they already own.**
- Fair Share Fee - Friday, September 27th
 - 1st Installment \$110
- Fair Share Fee - Thursday, November 22nd
 - 2nd Installment \$100
- Fair Share Fee - Friday, February 7th
 - 3rd/Final Installment \$100

Payments may be made at registration through our online form, within the student database Charms using debit/credit/paypal, or by check. Checks should be made payable to VRBB and include your student's name and HMS Color Guard. Checks can be brought in or mailed to us at **VRBB P.O. Box 3128 Cedar Park, TX 78631**

Chaperoning and Volunteering: We are always interested in fresh faces to be chaperones and get involved in the color guard program. Chaperones travel to and from contests/performances with us. Volunteers fill many diverse roles, please let us know if you have any special skills or availability to help. If you have questions about the responsibilities of a chaperone, please contact me! We need at least two chaperones per every trip.

We also require one day of adult volunteering from every color guard member in the Spring. This is for the winter guard competition we host at VRHS and is an all hands on deck event. Please plan to have one adult ready to volunteer for a shift on our contest day. That date is TBD but will be released asap.

Required Paperwork: We will need a physical completed by the start of next school year for every color guard student along with trip permission forms, photo release forms, and over-the-counter medication forms. A link and directions on how to fill out these forms will be posted in our google classroom and emailed out asap. Please be on the lookout for this information.

Private Lessons/Camps: Many parents have asked about private color guard lessons and camps over the summer. I will be putting together a private lesson teacher contact list for our returning and new color guard students along with information I find on reputable color guard camps for the summer. I will email this information out and post in our google classroom.

Registration: Registration for the HMS Color Guard will begin online and in person on **Monday, May 13th 2023** from **4:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the VRHS Band Hall**. New members and a parent should plan to attend in person on this date, so that the correct sized accessories can be ordered. Please contact me if you are unable to attend on this date so that arrangements can be made.

Overview: We will offer your student a life changing experience. They will learn dedication, hard work, perseverance, time management and many other life skills by participating in color guard. They will learn to perform and be confident members of a team that is one of the largest and most successful groups on campus. We are so thrilled to have your family join ours and we look forward to our time together! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

Please print and fill out this last page to indicate understanding of all information stated in the color guard program packet above! Email to erin.kosman@leanderisd.org or HMS students can return to me in the HMS cafeteria during 2nd or 3rd period by 5/10/24

Student Name:_____

Student Signature:_____

Date:_____

Parent Name:_____

Parent Signature:_____

Date:_____

Please put any questions you have here or anything I should know about your child:

Parent Information:

1st Parent/ Guardian

Parent/ Guardian Name:_____

Relationship:_____

Parent/ Guardian Email:_____

Parent/ Guardian Cell Phone # : _____

Home address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip Code:_____

2nd Parent/ Guardian

Parent/ Guardian Name:_____

Relationship:_____

Parent/ Guardian Email:_____

Parent/ Guardian Cell Phone # : _____

Home address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip Code:_____